



7 YEARS  
A POW  
IN HANOI!

# In the Presence of Mine Enemies

THE TRUE STORY  
OF A U.S. PILOT  
AND HIS WIFE!

35¢

YOU WILL WRITE  
A CONFESSION OR  
YOU WILL DIE !!!

WHAT  
IS YOUR  
CHOICE?

HERE  
IT IS!

DEATH

Lee  
Harley





**AMERICA WAITED 7 YEARS FOR THIS STORY!**

AND IT'S **TRUE!** THIS IS THE WAY IT WAS!

**WAR!  
SUFFERING!  
TORTURE!**



AND THEN :

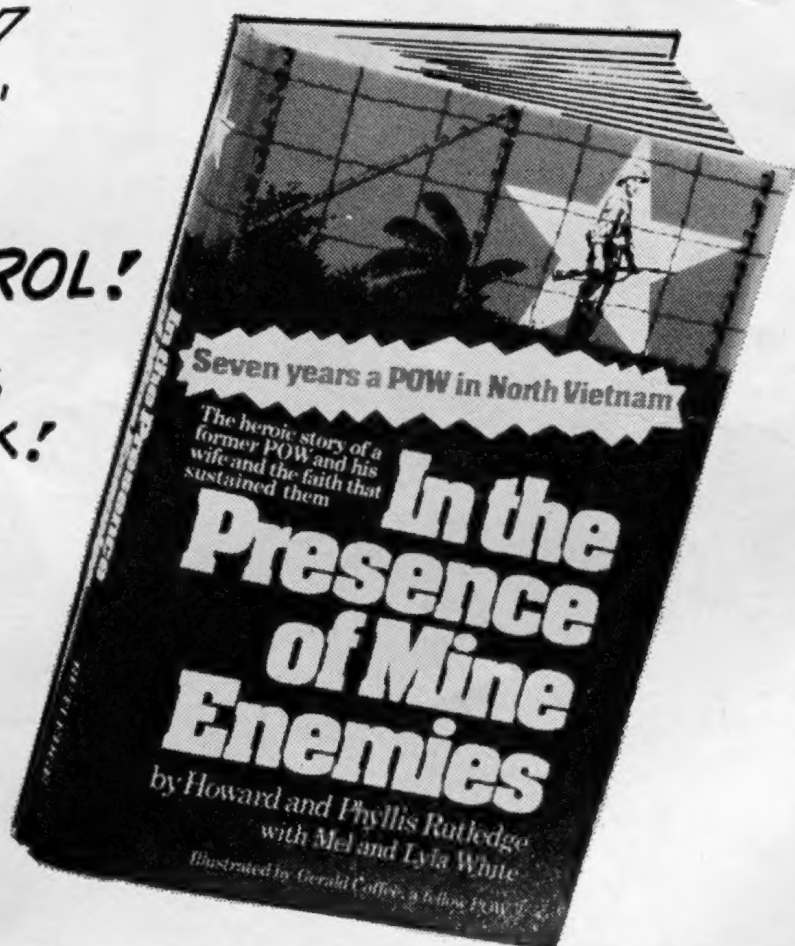
**PEACE!  
VICTORY!  
FREEDOM!**



THIS DRAMATIC  
**TRUE STORY**  
DIDN'T "JUST HAPPEN."  
PRAYER AND FAITH  
PLAYED A PART!  
**GOD WAS IN CONTROL!**  
YOU CAN READ **ALL**  
THE EXCITING DETAILS  
IN THE COMPLETE BOOK!

**\$4.95**

ILLUSTRATED





SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1965 ---  
PHYLLIS RUTLEDGE AND HER  
CHILDREN LEAVE FOR CHURCH ---

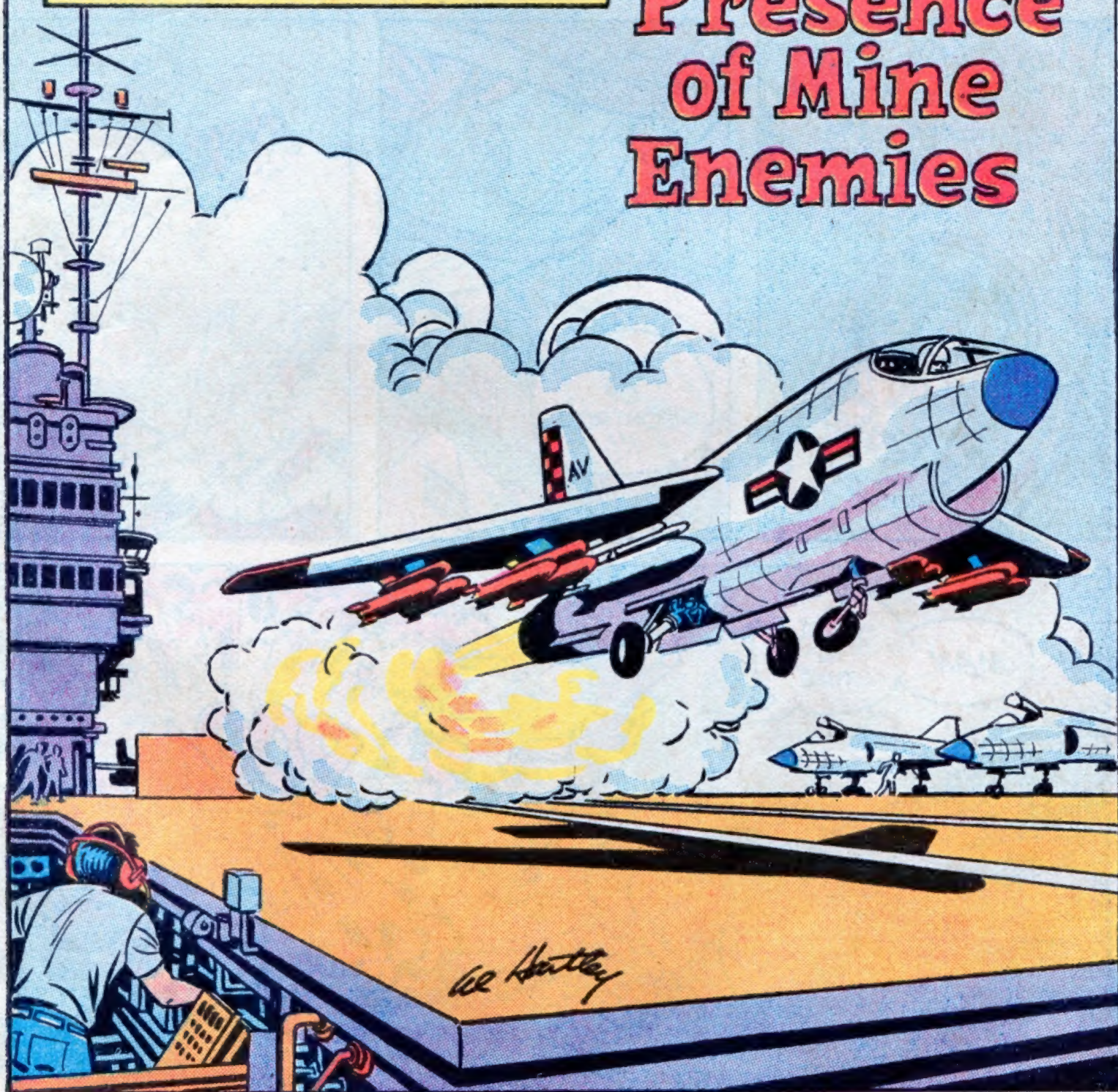
HURRY!

WE'LL  
BE  
LATE!

AND HALF WAY AROUND THE  
WORLD, HER HUSBAND HOWARD  
LEAVES ---

ON A DIFFERENT  
KIND OF MISSION !

# In the Presence of Mine Enemies



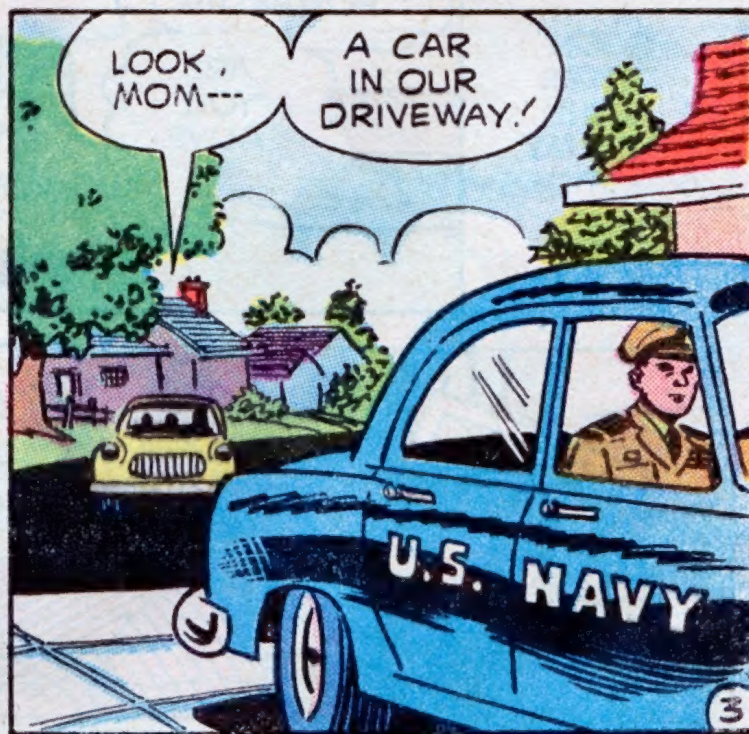
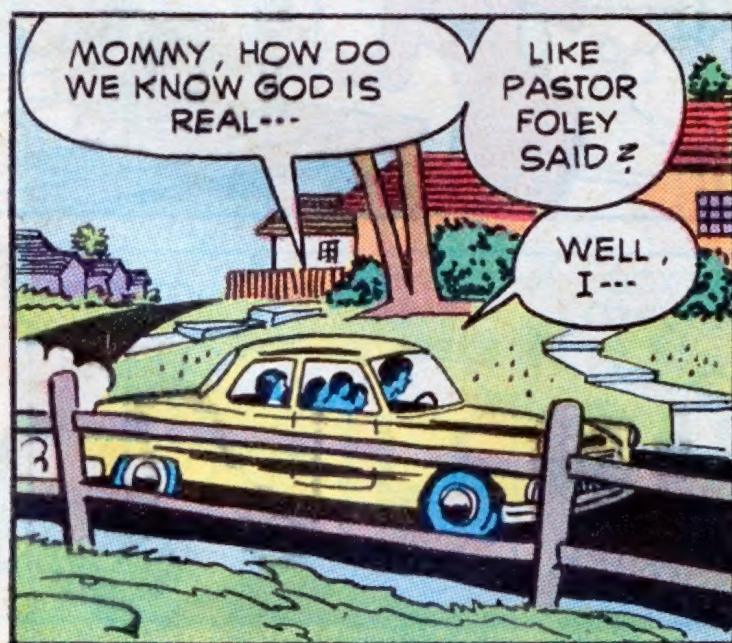




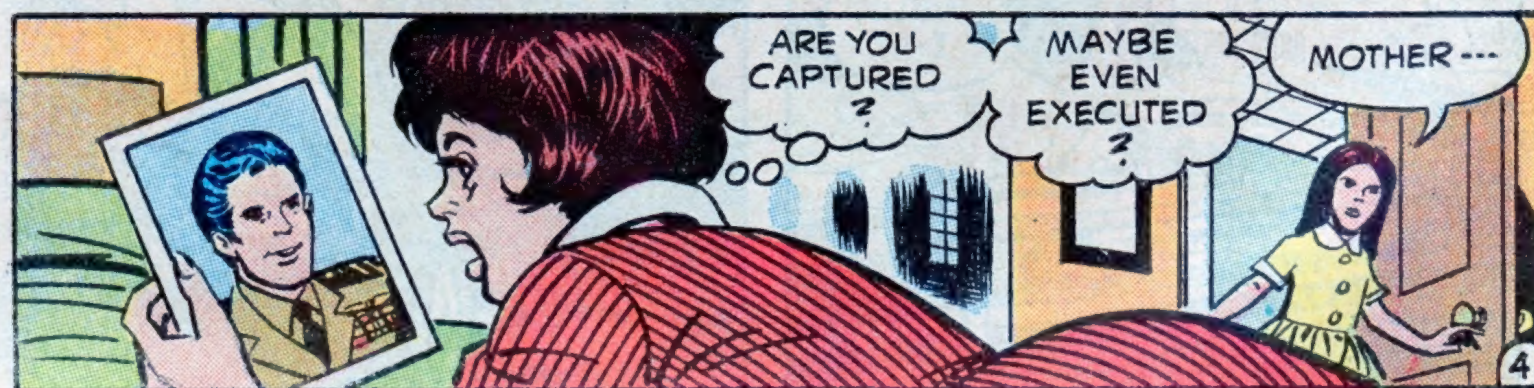
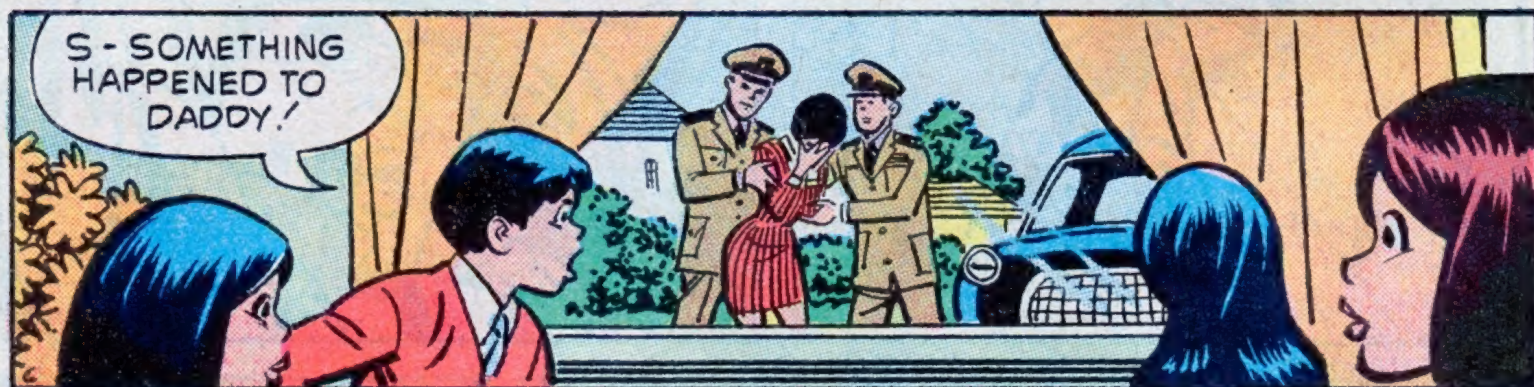




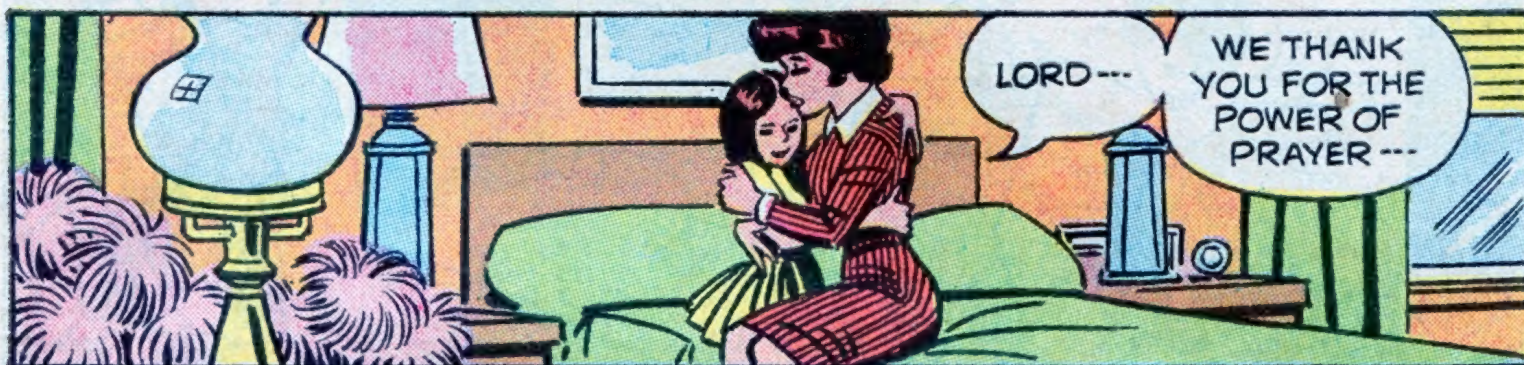
BACK IN CALIFORNIA, PHYLLIS RUTLEDGE RETURNS FROM CHURCH---











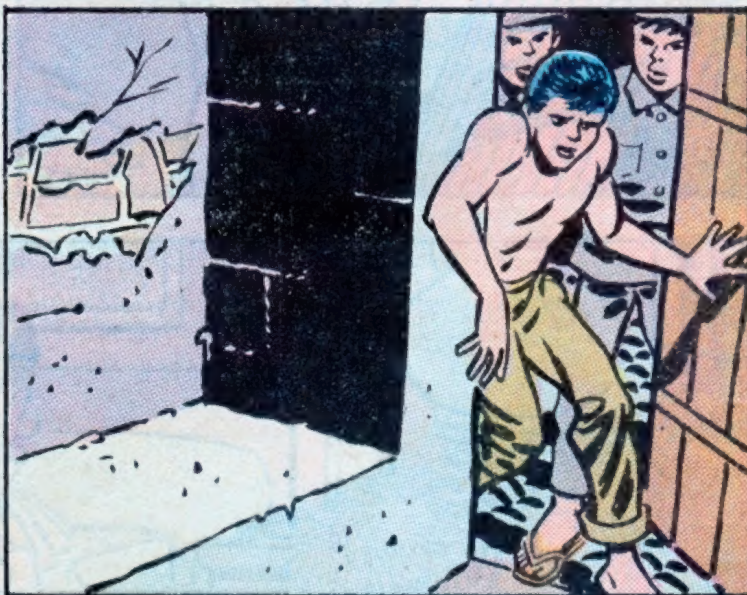


A  
NEW  
"GUEST"  
ARRIVES  
AT THE  
HANOI  
HILTON !

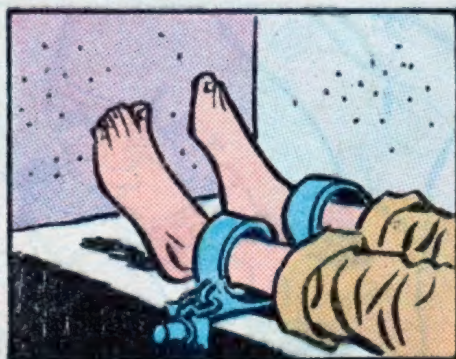


AND IS ESCORTED TO HIS ROOM---

3 X 6 FEET --- 120° HEAT ---  
NO AIR CONDITIONER !



AND NO  
DANGER  
OF  
FALLING  
OUT OF  
THE CEMENT  
BED !



ROOM  
SERVICE  
FEATURES  
THE WORLD'S  
MOST EXOTIC  
MENU ---  
SEAWEED  
SOUP AND  
SEWER  
GREENS !!!



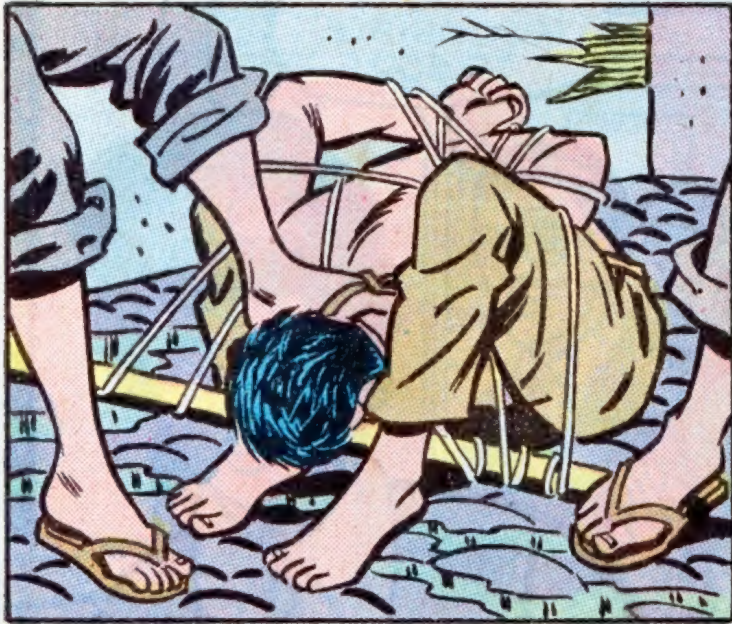
AND THE SOCIAL DIRECTOR  
IS A REAL EAGER BEAVER !



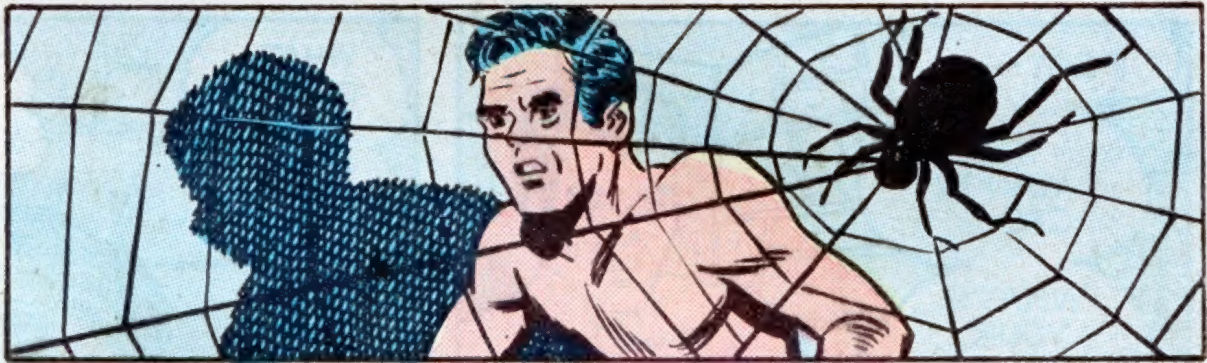


EVERYTHING WAS DESIGNED TO  
BREAK OUR SPIRIT ---

--- TO MAKE US TOOLS OF ENEMY  
PROPAGANDA !



THE  
BRUTALITY  
OF  
TORTURE  
AND  
SOLITARY  
IS  
DEVASTATING  
!!!



AT FIRST YOU PANIC !  
YOU WANT TO CRY OUT !



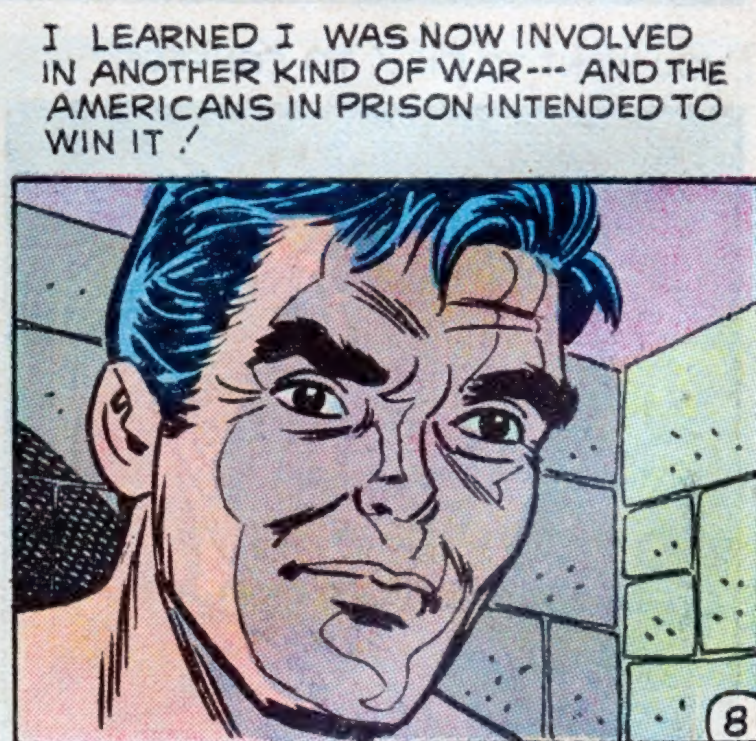
YOU WANT TO DIE ! TO CONFESS !



TO DO ANYTHING TO GET OUT OF THAT  
FOUL EVER-SHRINKING WORLD !

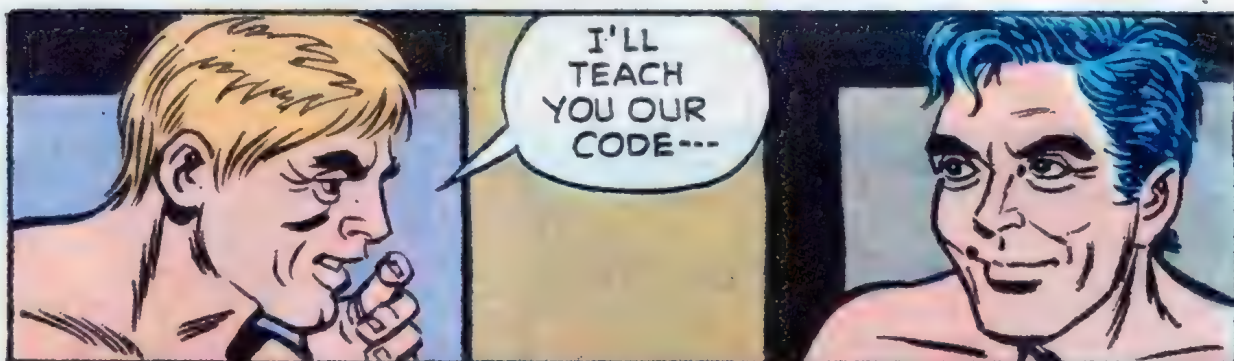








WE  
WERE  
ORGANIZED  
TO  
RESIST  
THE  
ENEMY!



I  
MEMORIZED  
THE NAME  
AND SERIAL  
NUMBER OF  
EVERY  
AMERICAN  
PRISONER!

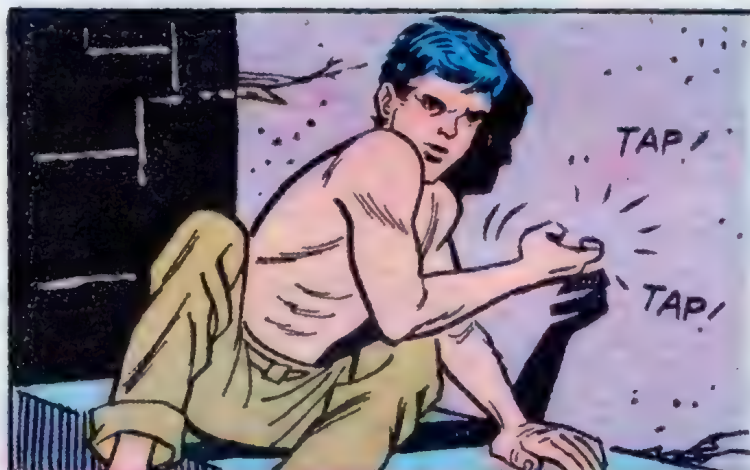


I ALSO  
LEARNED  
THAT  
AMERICANS  
WERE  
FORBIDDEN  
TO  
COMMUNICATE---



THE ENEMY KNEW IF HE COULD  
ISOLATE A MAN ---MAKE HIM FEEL  
CUT OFF --- FORGOTTEN --- HE COULD  
EASILY BREAK HIS SPIRIT!

BUT IN SPITE OF PUNISHMENT AND ALL  
KINDS OF OBSTACLES, AMERICANS  
THROUGHOUT THE PRISON WERE IN  
ALMOST CONSTANT CONTACT !!!



WE  
NEEDED  
EACH  
OTHER!

AND SO WE  
COMMUNICATED  
IN EVERY  
POSSIBLE WAY!

TAPPING OUT OUR  
CODE BY FINGER ---  
ELBOW --- SANDAL ---  
BROOM ---

EVEN A  
COUGH COULD  
CARRY A  
MESSAGE !!!





THE EASIEST THING WAS TO GIVE UP - BUT OUR COUNTRY NEVER TAUGHT US THAT.!



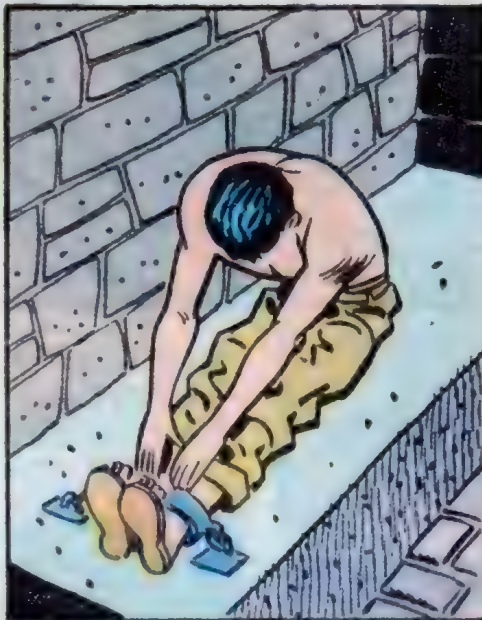
SO WE FOUGHT TO STAY ALIVE AND FIGHT BACK.!



THE FOOD WAS NAUSEATING--- BUT IT WAS ALL WE HAD SO WE ATE IT.!



WE EXERCISED DAILY, EVERY WAY WE COULD.!



WE EXERCISED OUR MINDS, TOO.!

THAT'S WHERE THE MAIN BATTLE TOOK PLACE.!



I BUILT FIVE HOUSES THAT WAY.!



AND I HAD PLENTY OF TIME TO DISCOVER THE IMPORTANCE OF REFLECTION---



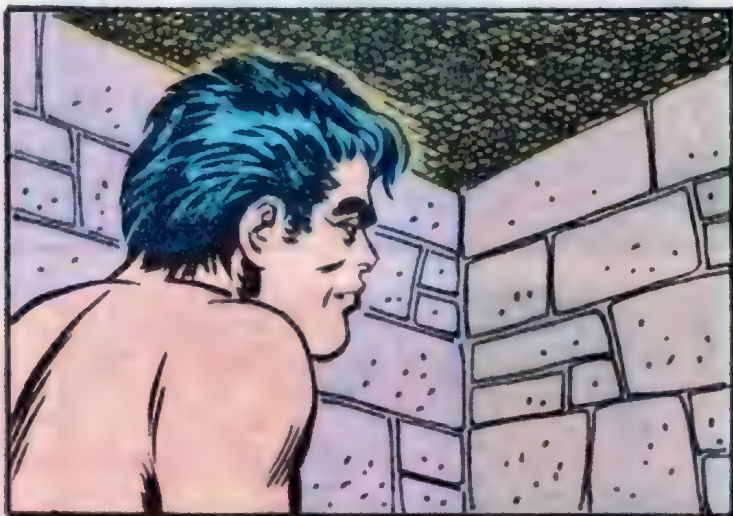


WHEN  
I WAS  
FREE,  
I WAS  
CONSTANTLY  
DEALING  
WITH  
THE  
WORLD  
OUTSIDE !



SUDDENLY THAT WAS GONE AND  
I WAS FORCED TO DEAL WITH  
THE WORLD *INSIDE* !

BUT I HAD COMPLETELY NEGLECTED  
THE SPIRITUAL DIMENSION OF MY  
LIFE !



IT'S TAKEN  
THIS PRISON TO  
SHOW ME HOW EMPTY  
LIFE IS WITHOUT  
GOD !

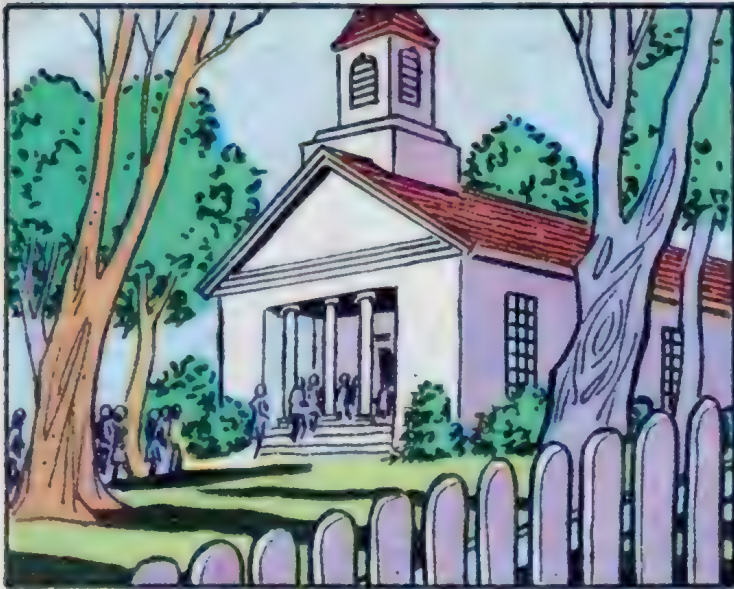


OH,  
LORD,  
WHY  
?

WHY  
IS THIS  
HAPPENING  
TO US ?



BOTH OF US GREW UP IN SOUTHERN BAPTIST HOMES. WE WERE IN CHURCH EVERY TIME THE DOORS OPENED.



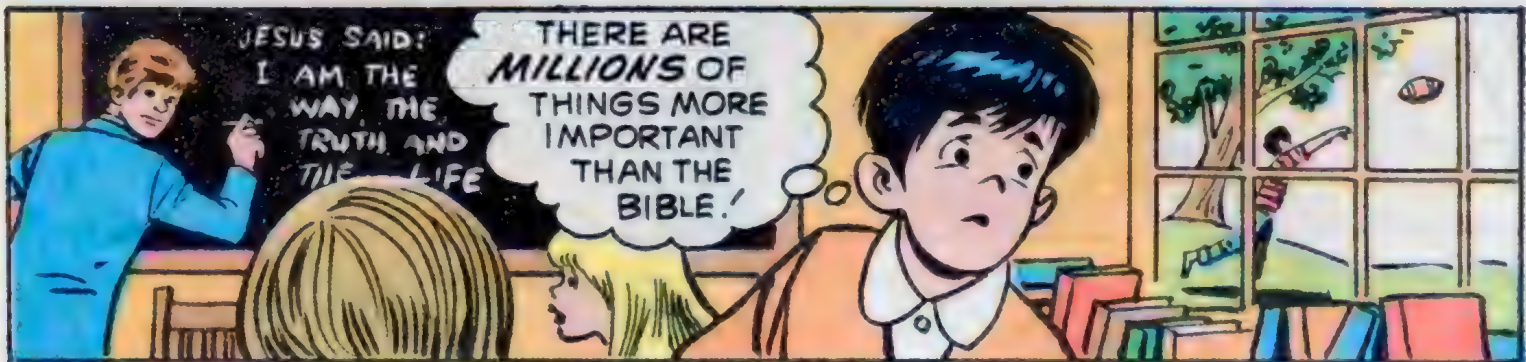
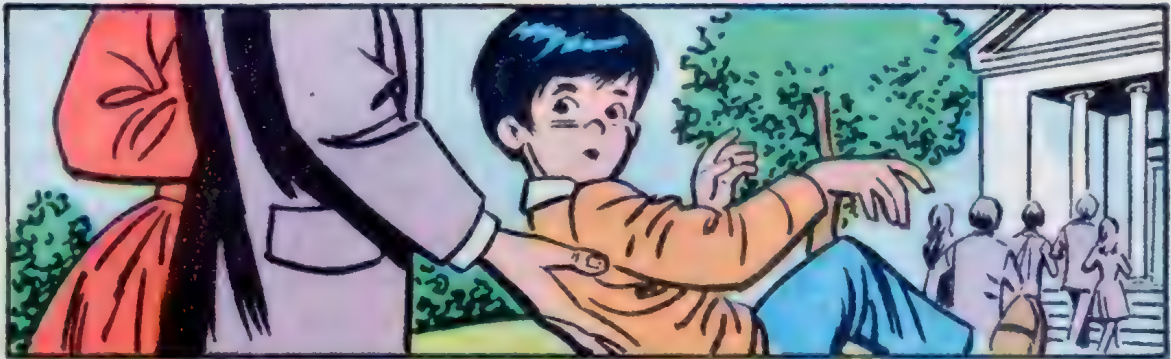
BUT SOMETHING HAPPENED AFTER WE WERE MARRIED ---



AREN'T YOU COMING TO CHURCH, HOWARD?

I THINK I'LL STAY HOME AND READ THE PAPER!

AS A BOY I WOULD HAVE STAYED HOME FROM SUNDAY SCHOOL, TOO, IF I HAD THE CHOICE! BUT I **HAD** TO GO!!!



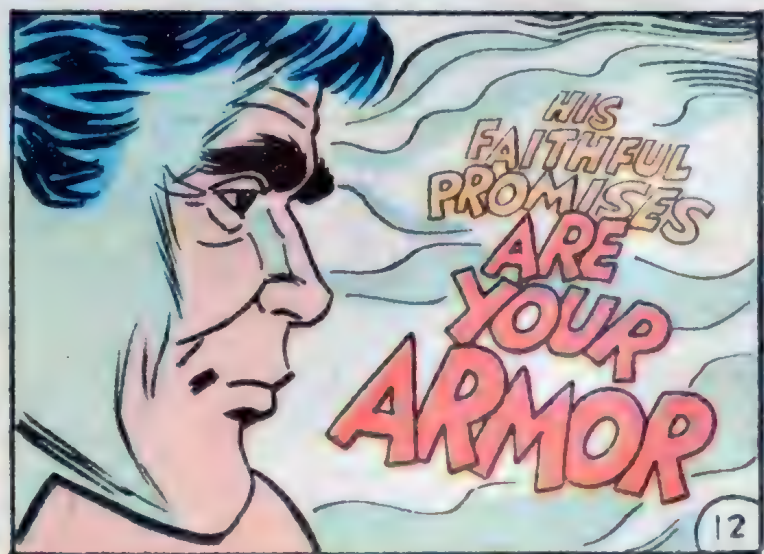
JESUS SAID: I AM THE WAY, THE TRUTH, AND THE LIFE

THERE ARE MILLIONS OF THINGS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE BIBLE!

BUT NOW, IN MY DARK CELL **NOTHING** WAS MORE IMPORTANT!



AND THE WORD OF GOD THAT SEEMED SO BORING YEARS AGO, CAME BACK TO ME IN ALL ITS POWER AND TRUTH!



HIS FAITHFUL PROMISES ARE YOUR ARMOR





OTHER PRISONERS WERE ALSO REDISCOVERING THEIR FAITH! TOGETHER WE REMEMBERED HUNDREDS OF BIBLE VERSES!



WE WERE DETERMINED TO RESIST OUR ENEMY AND TO OVERCOME THE POWER OF DEATH ALL AROUND US!



WE ENDED EVERY MESSAGE WITH: RWH SWD GBY!



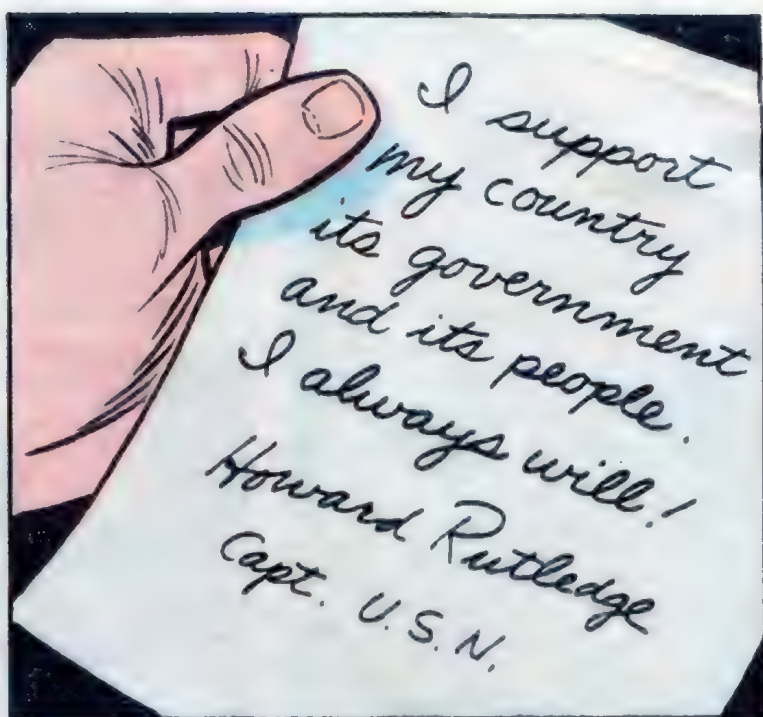








THANK YOU, CAPTAIN!



I support  
my country  
and its government  
I always will!  
Howard Rutledge  
Capt. U.S.N.



PIG!

WE'LL SEE  
HOW LONG SUCH  
ALLEGIANCE  
CAN LAST!

TIE HIM  
AGAIN!

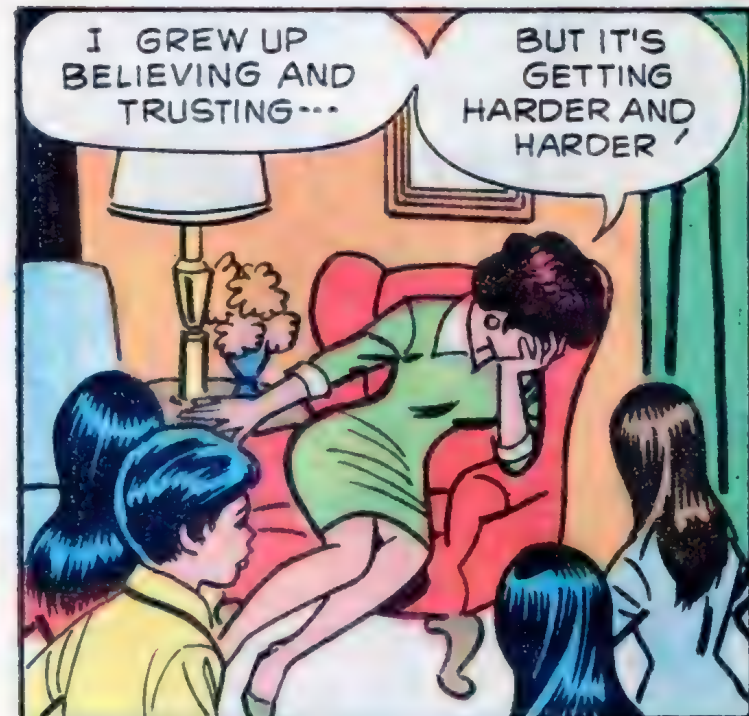


OH,  
GOD,  
PLEASE...

GIVE  
ME  
SOME  
SIGN...

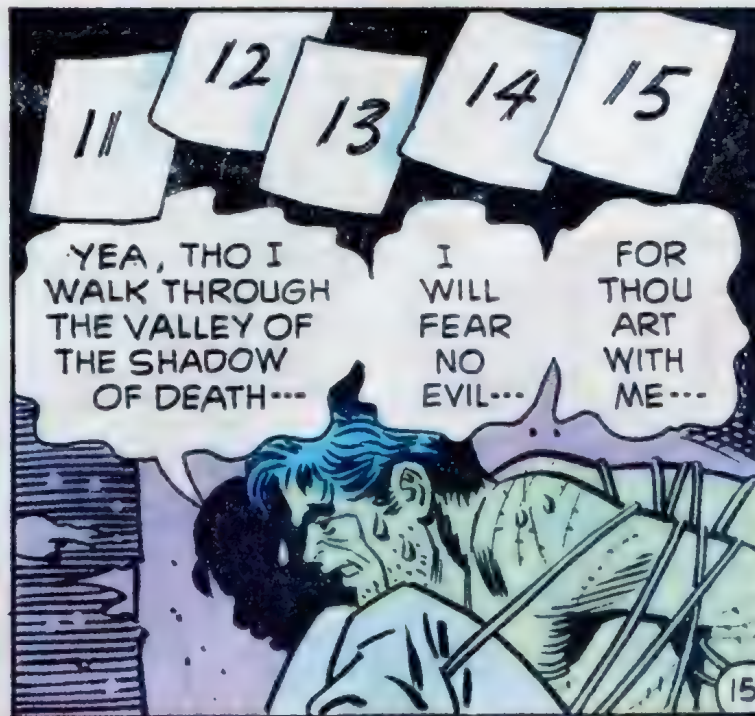
AM I  
A WIFE  
?

OR A  
WIDOW  
?



I GREW UP  
BELIEVING AND  
TRUSTING...

BUT IT'S  
GETTING  
HARDER AND  
HARDER!



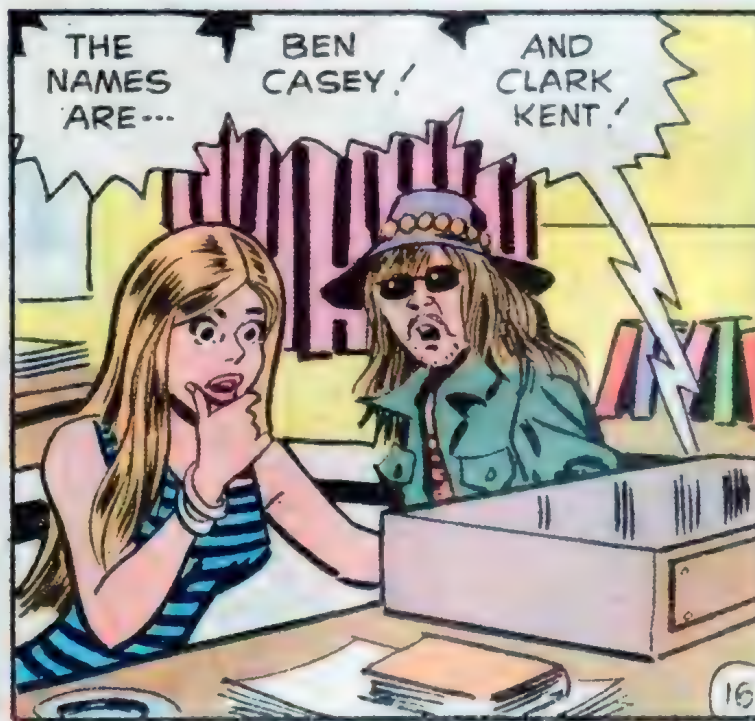
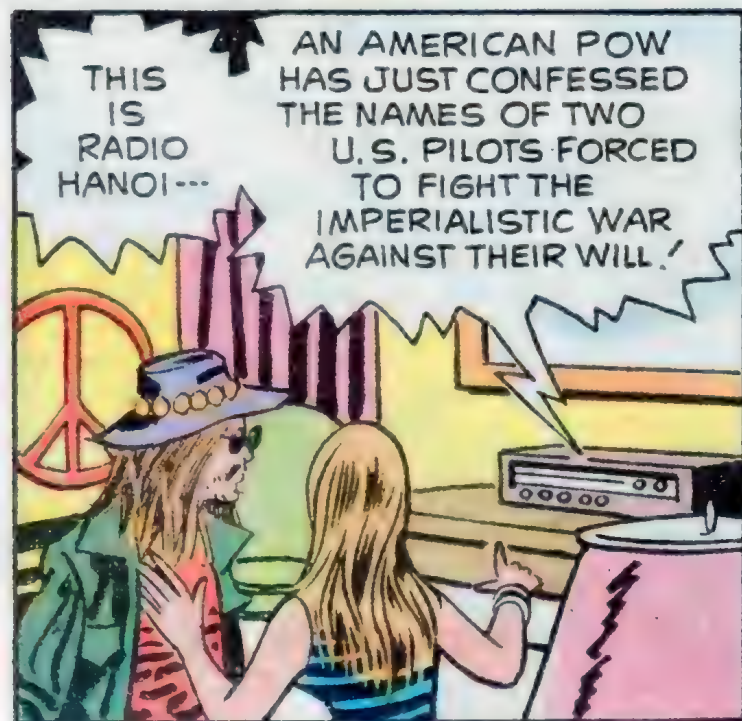
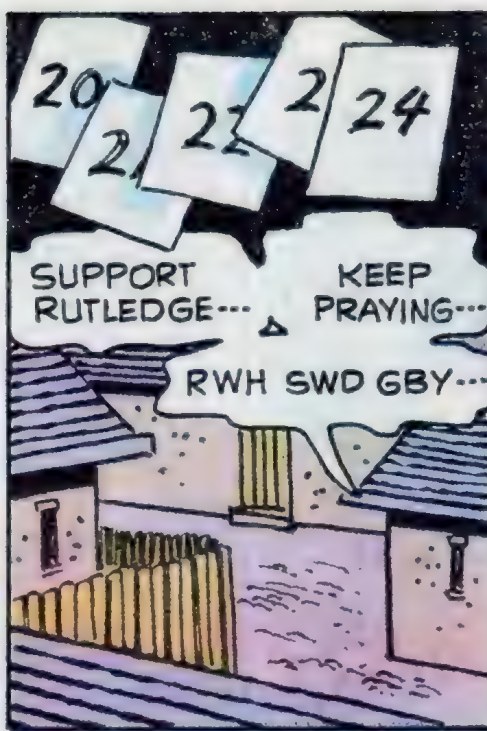
11 12 13 14 15

YEA, THO I  
WALK THROUGH  
THE VALLEY OF  
THE SHADOW  
OF DEATH---

I  
WILL  
FEAR  
NO  
EVIL---

FOR  
THOU  
ART  
WITH  
ME---





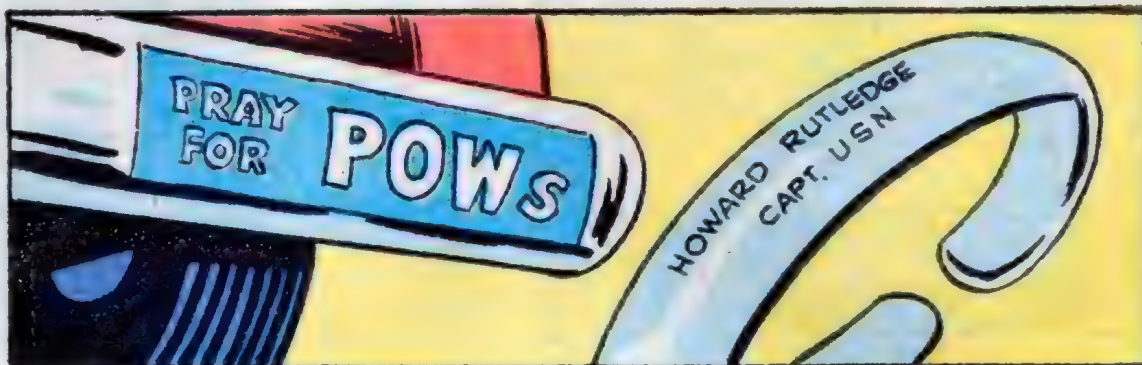


THE ENEMY  
GOT MANY  
"CONFESSIONS"  
THAT BLEW UP  
IN THEIR  
FACES!  
AND **MORE**  
BOMBS WERE  
COMING!!!



DEAR MRS. RUTLEDGE;  
WE ARE FORMING AN  
ORGANIZATION OF POW  
WIVES, WE WANT TO  
FORCE HANOI TO  
RELEASE INFORMATION  
ABOUT OUR HUSBANDS---

IN PRISON WE  
KNEW NOTHING  
OF THE BRACELETS  
AND BUMPER-  
STICKERS THAT  
KEPT OUR PLIGHT  
BEFORE THE  
PUBLIC---



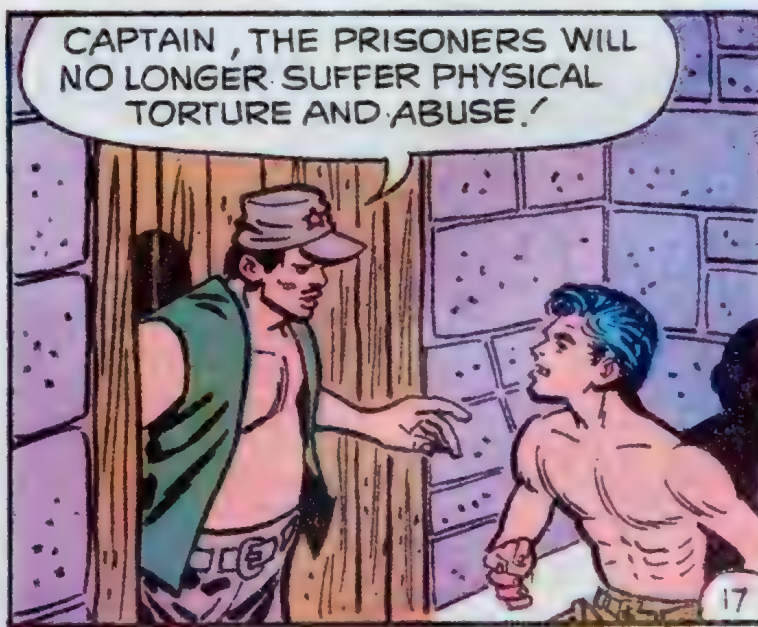
HANOI TOLD US A LOT ABOUT  
ANTI-WAR ACTIVITY, BUT  
NOTHING ABOUT THE MANY GROUPS  
THAT WORKED SO HARD FOR US /

BUT HANOI FELT THE PRESSURE OF THE  
POW AND MIA GROUPS! /



AND LITTLE BY LITTLE WE NOTICED  
CHANGES TAKING PLACE! /

HANOI COULD READ THE HANDWRITING  
ON THE WALL ---





I... I HAVE CONFESSED  
MY SIN TO THE PARTY  
AND THE PEOPLE /



SO PIGEYE  
BECAME  
A  
SCAPEGOAT  
FOR  
COMMUNIST  
INHUMANITY /  
AFTER HIS  
STRANGE  
CONFESSION  
WE NEVER  
SAW HIM  
AGAIN!

I HAD TO GET THE NEWS OUT  
QUICKLY / THE ENEMY WAS STILL  
USING THE **THREAT** OF TORTURE  
TO USE US FOR PROPAGANDA /

GREAT  
NEWS /



IT'S NOT ALL  
ANTI-WAR AT  
HOME!  
PEOPLE ARE  
SUPPORTING  
US!



OUR GOVERNMENT  
IS KEEPING THE  
PRESSURE ON!

WE'RE  
WINNING /

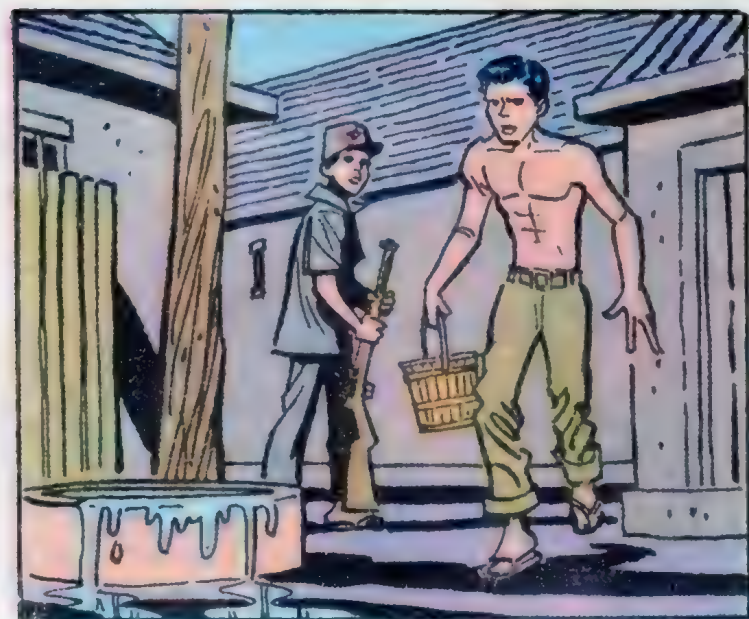
NO  
MORE  
TORTURE!

RWH SWD GBY /



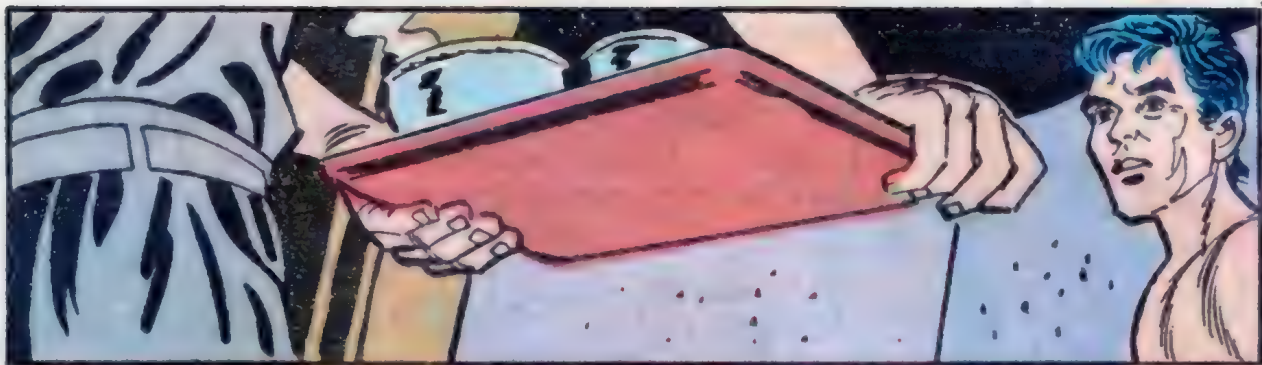
WE HAD ALL LOST CONSIDERABLE  
WEIGHT / EVERYONE SUFFERED  
MALNUTRITION, DYSENTERY---

SOME BODIES WERE SO RAVAGED,  
MEN PULLED WORMS FROM THEIR  
THROATS /





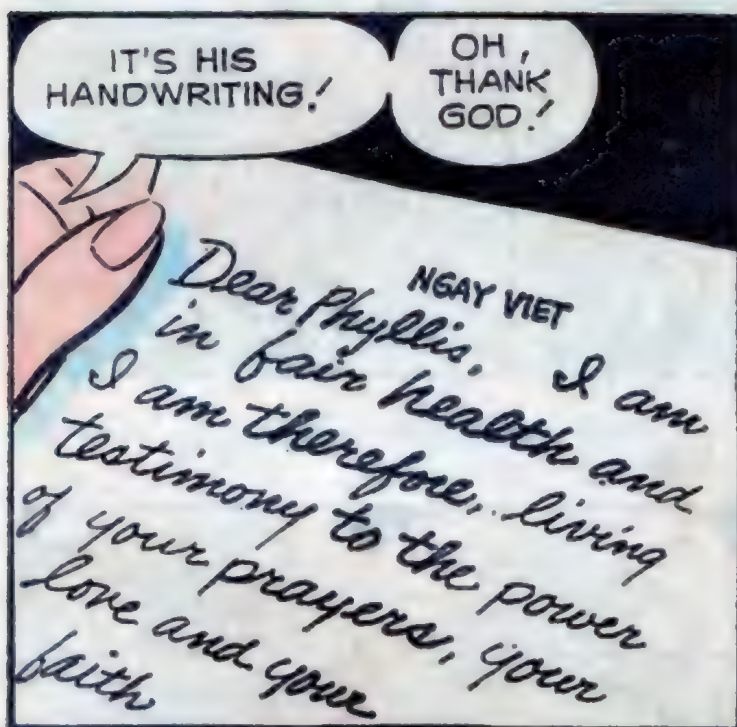
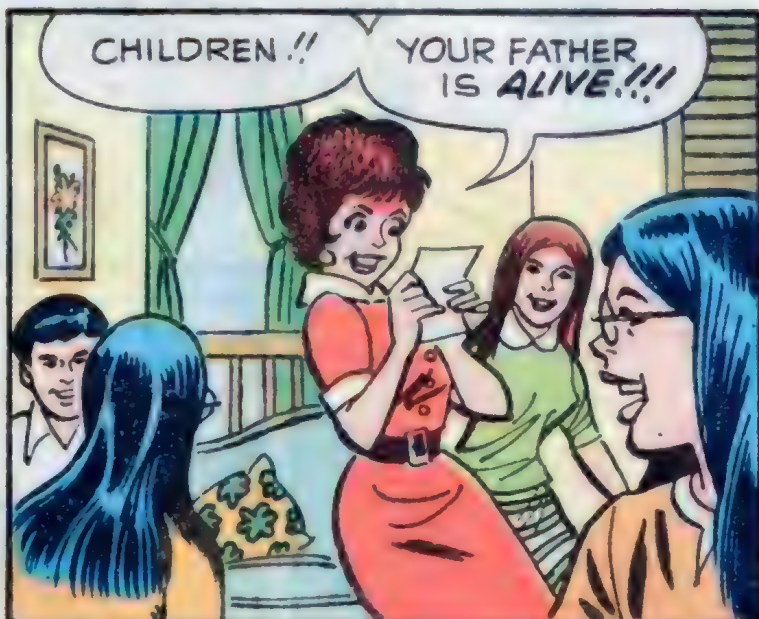
BUT  
NOW WE  
BEGAN TO  
GET BETTER  
FOOD-  
AND MORE  
OF IT!



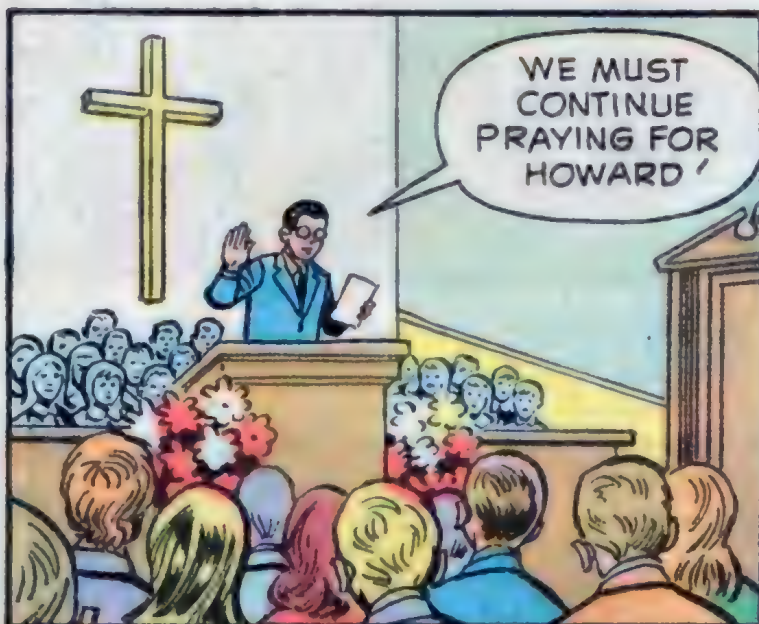
AND ON A VERY RARE OCCASION---



FINALLY, AFTER FIVE YEARS OF SILENCE---



PASTOR FOLEY READ MY LETTER FROM THE PULPIT---





I HAD BEEN IN SOLITARY CONFINEMENT FOR 1,740 DAYS!

NOW I WAS TOGETHER WITH FIFTY OTHER AMERICANS!

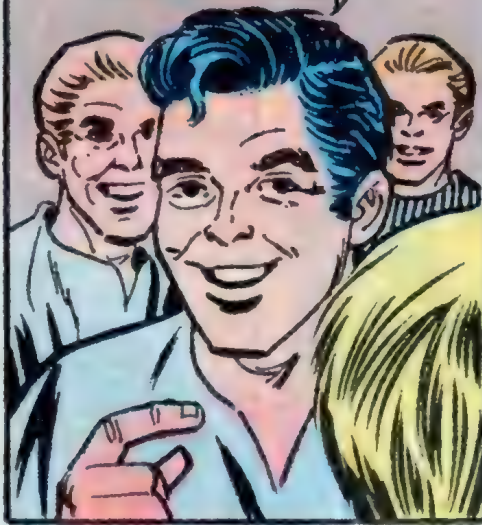
WHAT A CELEBRATION WE HAD!



I HAVEN'T USED MY VOICE IN OVER A YEAR!



I KNOW THE BEST WAY FOR ALL OF US TO USE OUR VOICES---



LET'S HAVE A WORSHIP SERVICE!



A REVERENT SILENCE FILLED THE ROOM AS WE ALL GOT ON OUR KNEES!

LT. COL. ROBERT RISNER PRAYED FOR US ---



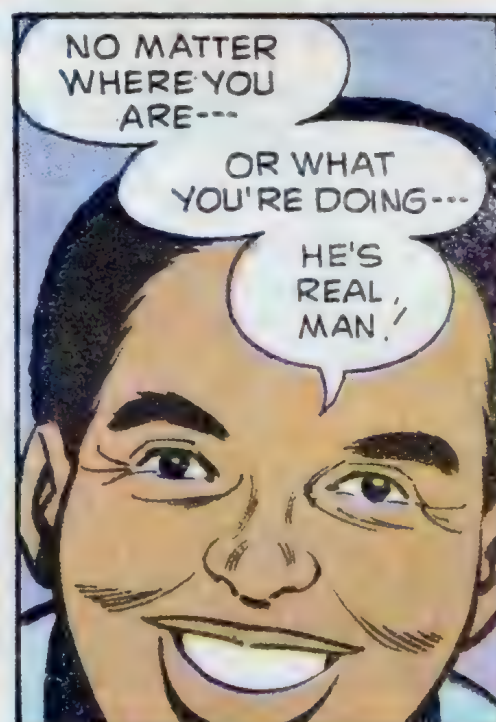
LORD, THANK YOU FOR BRINGING US THROUGH THE ROUGH DAYS---

AND FOR BRINGING US TOGETHER LIKE THIS...





AND THEN  
MAJOR  
NORMAN  
MCDANIEL  
PREACHED  
THE  
SERMON---







WE WERE HERDED INTO THE COURTYARD! MEMORIES OF PAST TORTURE WERE VIVID IN OUR MINDS!





AS WE  
AWAITED  
OUR FATE,  
SOMEONE  
IN CELL-  
BLOCK 7  
BEGAN  
TO SING  
THE  
STAR  
SPANGLED  
BANNER---



OTHERS JOINED IN ---

ALL OF CELL BLOCK 7 WAS ALIVE  
WITH THE SONG ---

WHOSE BROAD STRIPES  
AND BRIGHT STARS,  
THROUGH THE  
PERILOUS FIGHT---

**CEASE!**

AND THE ROCKETS RED GLARE,  
THE BOMBS BURSTING IN AIR,  
GAVE PROOF THROUGH THE NIGHT  
THAT OUR FLAG WAS STILL THERE ---

**NO  
SING  
!!!**

**STOP  
!!!**

AND FINALLY, THE *ENTIRE* PRISON !!!  
*EVERY* AMERICAN VOICE !!!

O, SAY DOES THAT  
STAR SPANGLED BANNER  
YET WAVE ---

O'ER THE LAND OF THE FREE  
AND THE HOME OF THE BRAVE ?



THERE WAS  
NO QUESTION  
NOW! WE  
WERE GOING  
TO LEAVE HANOI  
AS *MEN*!  
STANDING TALL  
AND STRAIGHT  
NOT BROKEN  
AND BENT!



WHEN THE PEACE TREATY WAS SIGNED  
IN PARIS I HAD A RELUCTANT  
VISITOR---

YOUR GOVERNMENT HAS INSISTED  
THAT YOU GET A COPY OF THE  
TERMS OF YOUR RELEASE!



AND  
THEN---

NEW  
CLOTHING!

WE'RE GOING  
TO LEAVE AS  
WE CAME  
IN-- WITH  
HONOR!

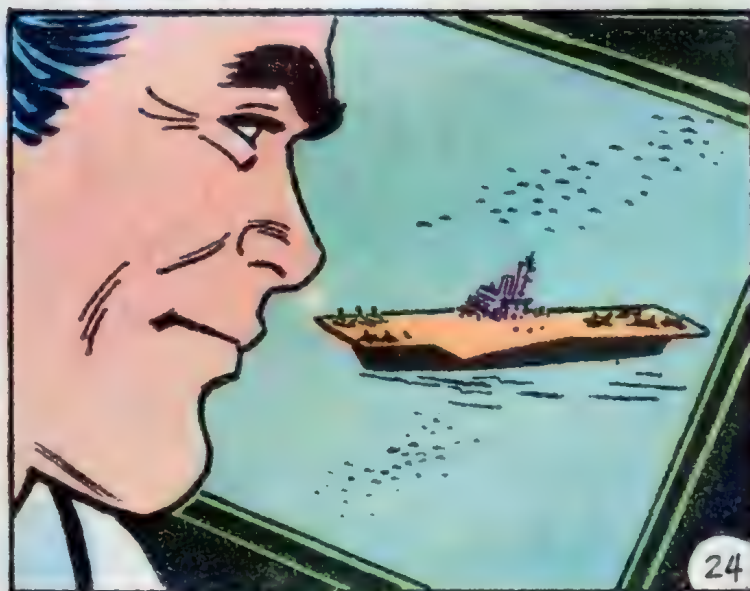
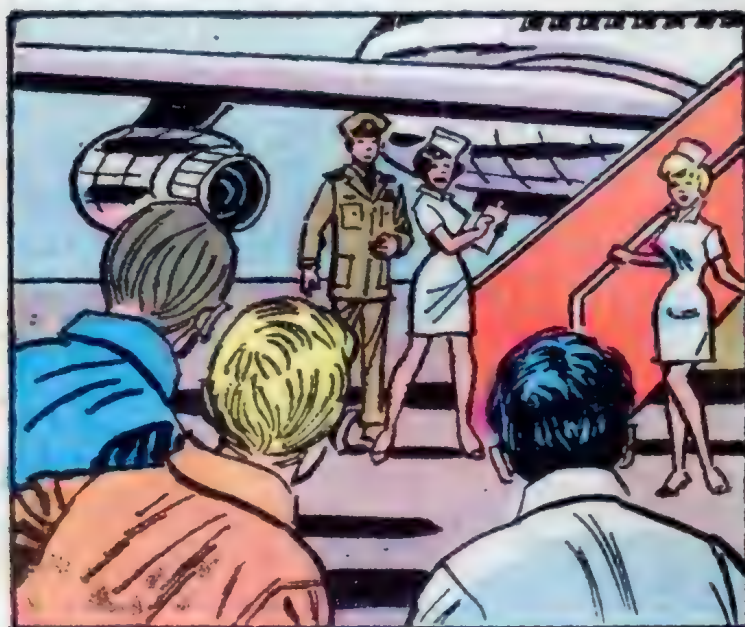


I FELT RESURRECTED  
FROM THE DEAD AS  
I LEFT OUR TOMB OF  
SEVEN YEARS---



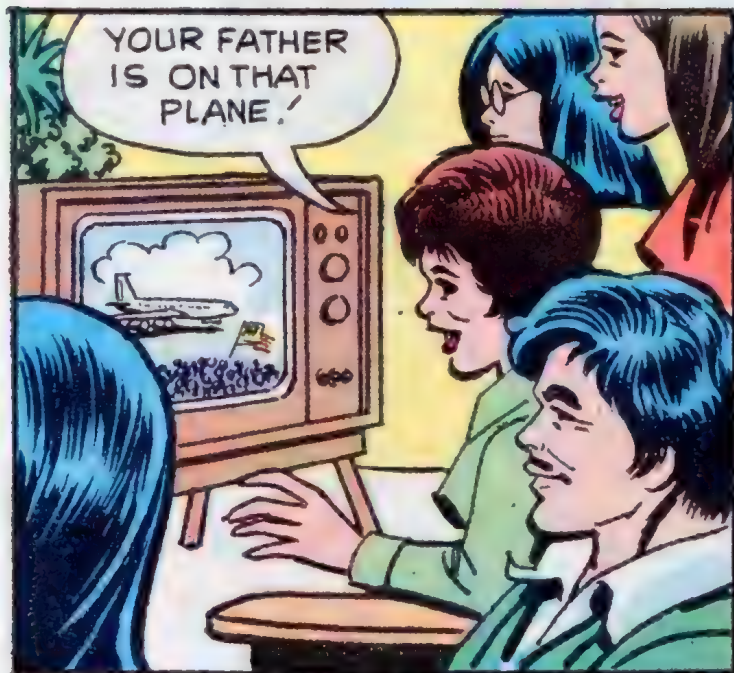
SEEING OTHER AMERICANS WAS  
ALMOST TOO MUCH!

TEARS CAME TO OUR EYES AS WE SAW  
ALL THE SUPPORT OUR COUNTRY HAD  
GIVEN US!





FIRST STOP--- THE PHILIPPINES---



AND THEN--- FIRST THINGS FIRST---



AND THEN A CALL TO  
PHYLLIS---



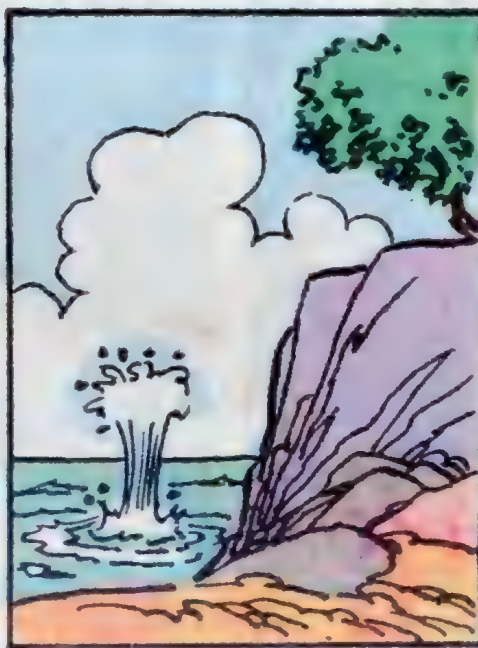
SHE TOLD ME OF OUR  
SON'S ACCIDENT---



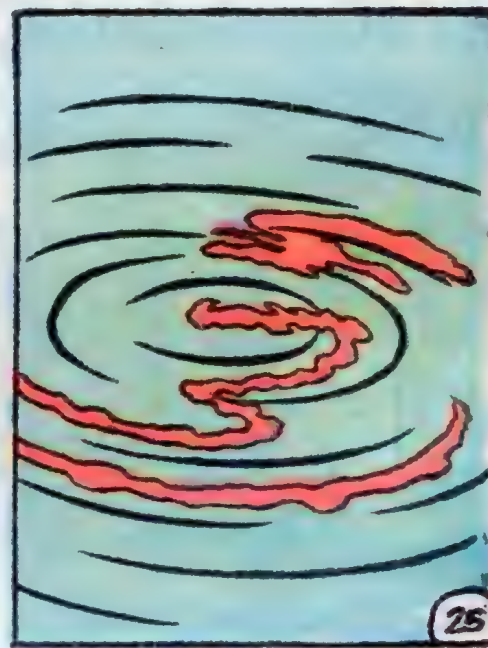
WE WERE AT THE  
BEACH---



JOHN DOVE FROM THE  
CLIFF---



AND HIT A SUBMERGED  
ROCK---







WHAT IS HIS CONDITION NOW ?

HE'S PARALYZED FROM THE NECK DOWN !



HE'S AS SMART AND AS WITTY AS EVER AND HE'S ATTENDING COLLEGE !



AND HE CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU !



I DIDN'T SLEEP THAT NIGHT---

LORD, I WON'T LET MY QUESTIONS ABOUT JOHN OVERPOWER MY FAITH IN YOU !



I BELIEVE YOU'RE WORKING IN HIS LIFE, JUST AS YOU'RE WORKING IN MINE !

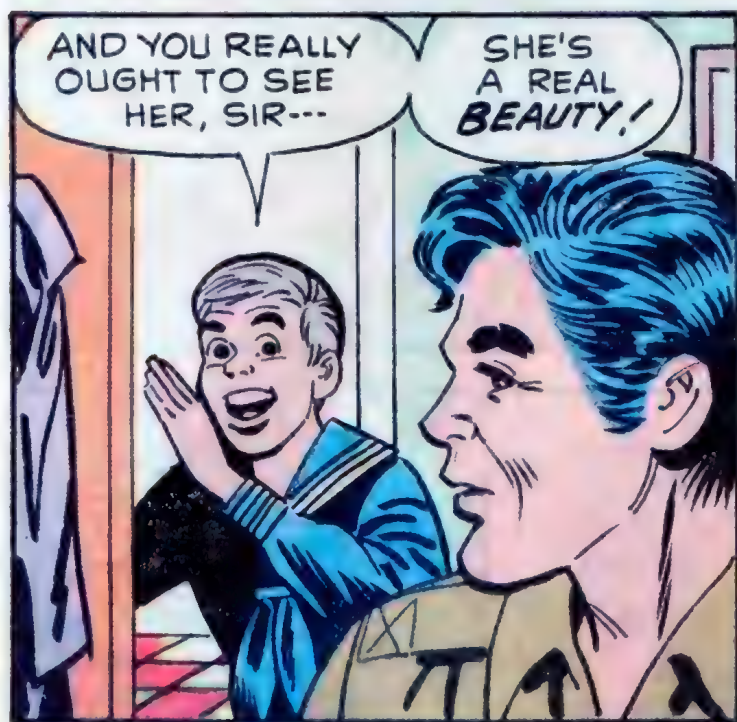


I BELIEVE YOU'VE GOT A PLAN FOR BOTH OF US !



AND MY SON AND I WILL FIND IT TOGETHER !







NOW THE FINAL FLIGHT  
ACROSS THE PACIFIC---

I LEFT  
AMERICA  
A CHURCH  
DROP-OUT!

I RETURN  
TRANSFORMED  
BY WHAT I'VE  
SEEN GOD DO  
IN PRISON!



I'VE LEARNED THE  
IMPORTANT THINGS  
IN LIFE!



I'LL  
NEVER BE  
WITHOUT  
A BIBLE  
AGAIN!



AND I'LL APPLY GOD'S  
WORD IN MY FAMILY  
LIFE---

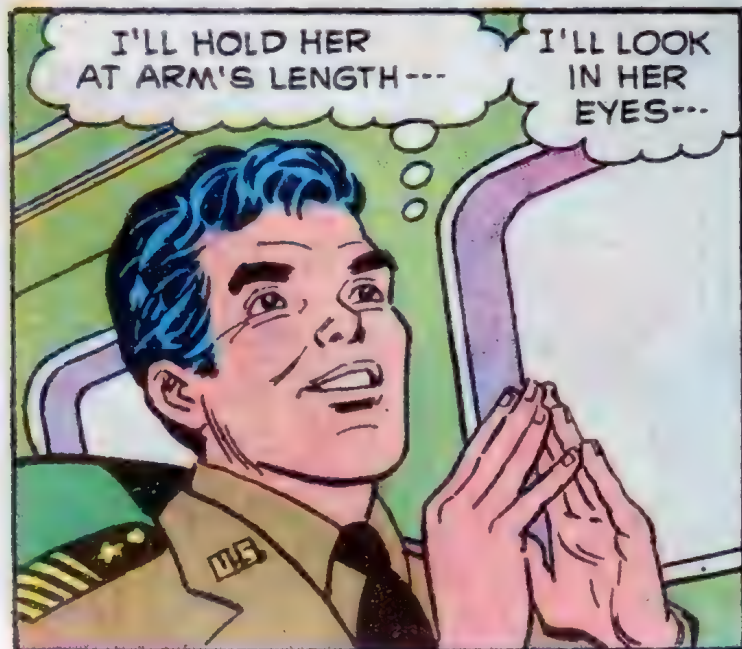
IN EVEN THE  
SMALLEST  
THINGS!



I THOUGHT OF MY REUNION WITH  
PHYLLIS AFTER NEARLY 8 YEARS---

I'LL HOLD HER  
AT ARM'S LENGTH---

I'LL LOOK  
IN HER  
EYES---



I'LL TELL  
HER I LOVE  
HER---

AND  
THEN WE'LL  
EMBRACE!





BUT PHYLLIS HAD A  
BETTER IDEA!

**ZOOM!**

WHAT A  
WELCOME!

HANOI TOLD US AMERICA WOULD  
STAGE WILD DEMONSTRATIONS  
WHEN WE RETURNED---

--- BUT HANOI  
DIDN'T MEAN  
*THIS* KIND!!!

**WELCOME  
HOME**

**GOD  
BLESS  
AMERICA!**

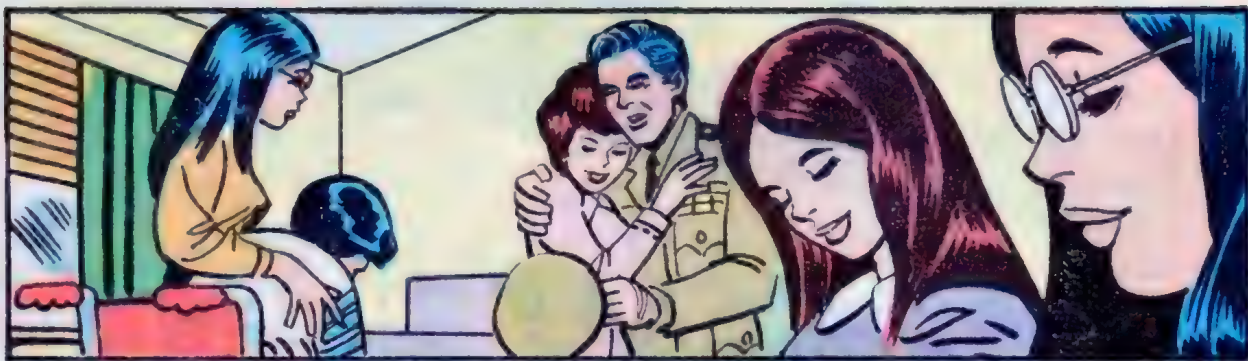
**YOU  
KEPT  
THE  
FAITH**

**POWS  
WELCOME**

**WELCOME  
AMERICA**



THE  
FIRST  
THING  
WE DID  
AS A  
FAMILY  
WAS TO  
THANK GOD  
FOR HIS  
MERCY!



STRANGE---

I ALWAYS  
FELT PRAYER  
WAS A SORT  
OF RITUAL---

OR A  
SIGN OF  
WEAK-  
NESS---



I KNOW  
BETTER NOW!

I'VE LEARNED  
THAT, TOO, DAD!



AND IT DOESN'T PAY TO GET HUNG-  
UP ON THE THINGS YOU  
CAN'T DO---



--- I'M GLAD  
FOR THE THINGS  
I *CAN* DO!

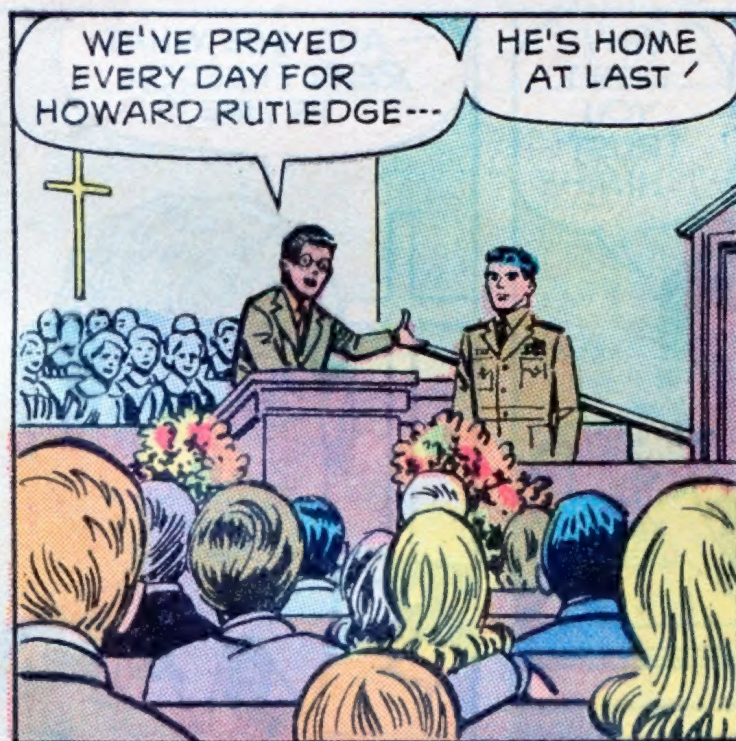
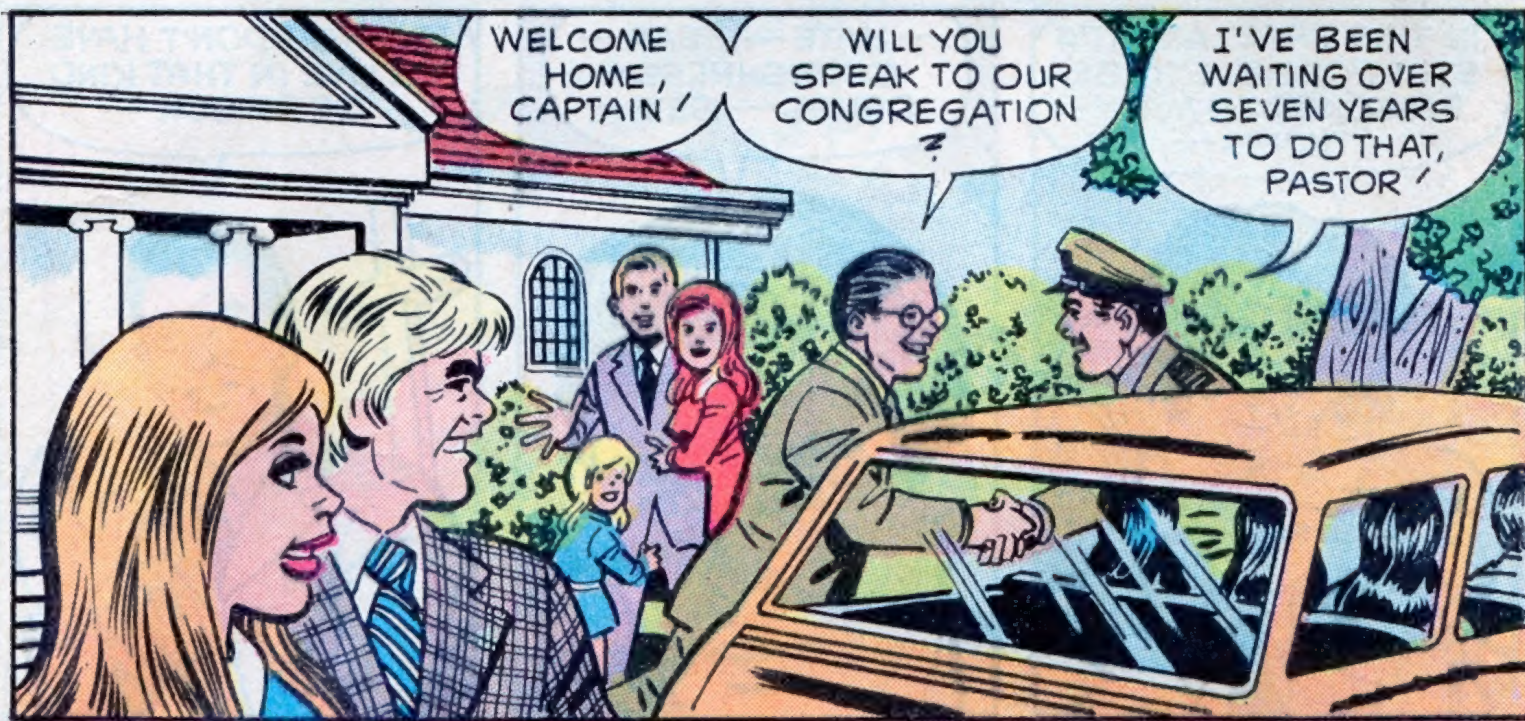
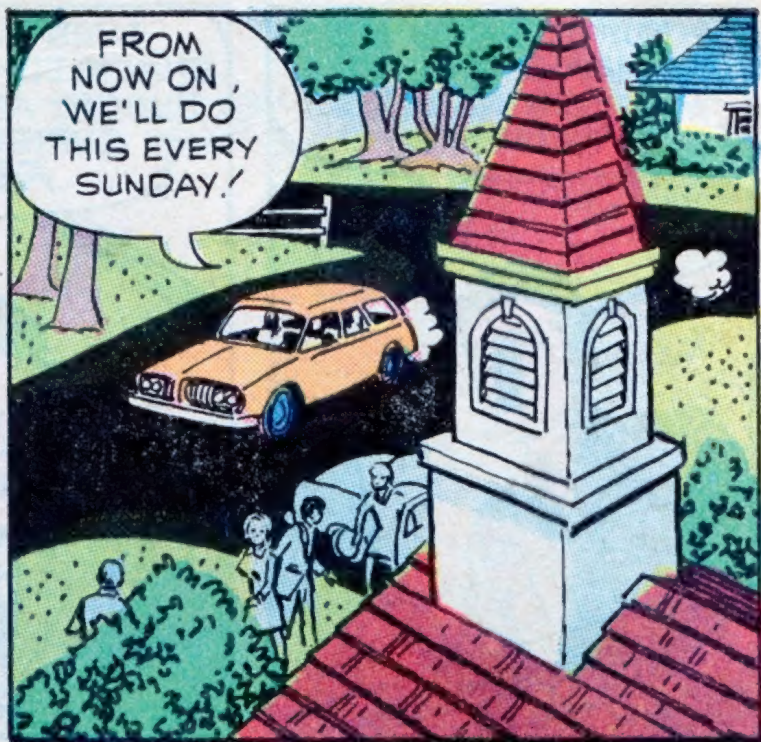


SON,  
WE DON'T  
UNDERSTAND  
THE MYSTERY  
OF  
SUFFERING---

BUT WE KNOW  
THAT GOD HAS  
PROMISED NEVER  
TO LEAVE US OR  
FORSAKE US!













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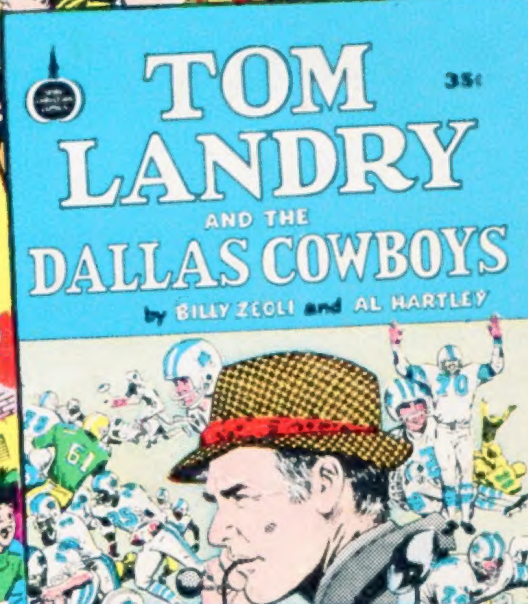
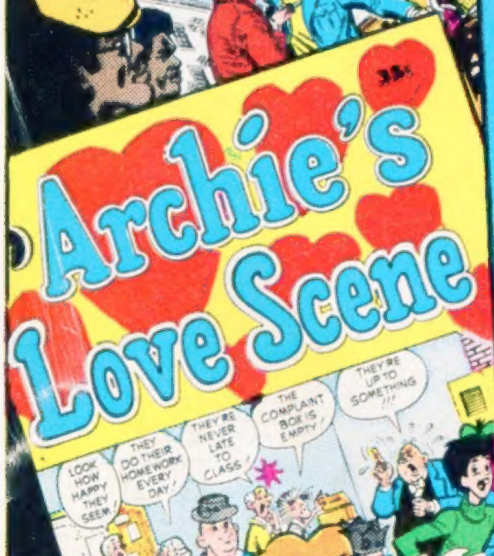
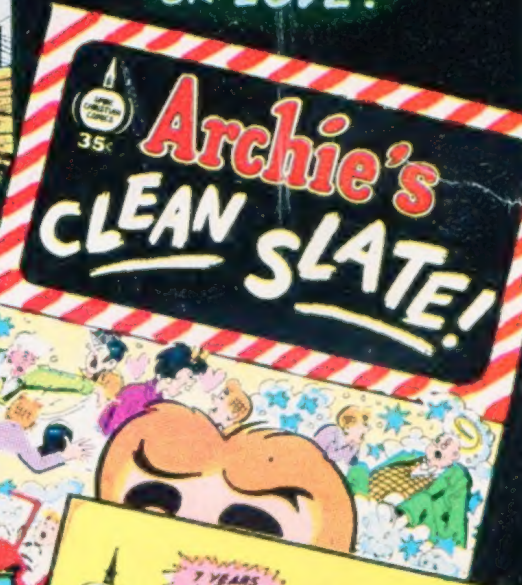
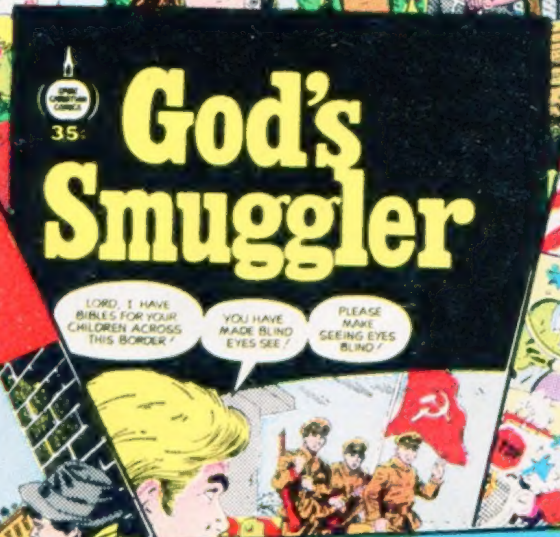
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